

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6, 8-15, and 17-20 are pending in the present application; no claims having been amended, added, or canceled by way of the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-6, 8-15, and 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Ohishi et al. (U.S. 2003/0140174) in view of Kajita et al. (U.S. 6,069,706). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The primary reference used to reject the claims is Ohishi et al., which has a prior art date of January 2, 2003 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). The present application claims foreign priority to two Japanese patent applications, one of which is JP 2002-269284 filed in Japan on September 13, 2002.

Included herewith is a verified translation of JP 2002-269284, thus perfecting the priority date of September 13, 2002. Accordingly, Ohishi et al. does not qualify as prior art and therefore the prior art rejection must be withdrawn.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion, the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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